

# The Crane

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## Hope Not Fear

**A multilingual community is one that is both tolerant and enriched by the diversity that contributes to the dynamic development of a common culture with its valued variations. Sometimes introductions have been worked at for barriers to be dispelled. And finger pointing at the wrong culprit never solved anything. In order to maintain social cohesion we must NOT tolerate intolerance from any quarter. Glasgow's had its fill of violent gangs and criminal violence. From wherever it comes, thuggery must be extinguished. Violence and the causes of violence must be dealt with appropriately.**

By facing problems together we are much more likely to solve them. So says The Crane. The following article is from one of our new neighbours.

**We are one of the latest waves of migrants that has arrived in Glasgow in the last 10 years.**

The post-modern migration is composed of two recent main parts differing in time of settlement, place of origin of

migrants and also by political status of those who came over to live in Glasgow. The latest wave of migrants are people from the new EU countries, the so-called A2 countries which are Romania and Bulgaria that joined the EU in 2007. The second latest wave is the Polish, Czech and Slovak people and some Lithuanians who started migrating to Glasgow in 2004, the year their countries and eight others (the E8) joined the EU.

Now we have come to live in the UK, and some of us will stay. We have our own culture and social habits that might look weird to you, socializing on the streets as opposed to in our flats, but so does your lifestyle sometime seem strange to us. We certainly have some bad social habits, but they are also just bad habits. Nobody is born with them. They are learned behaviours that we all have gathered through the observation of our families and the environment we were brought up in. The longer we live abroad the more chances we have to learn new social skills. Learning

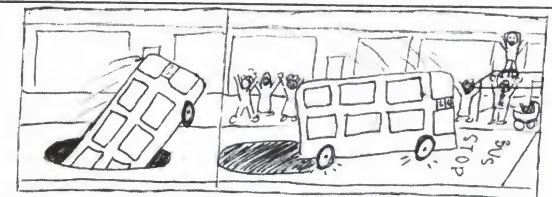
something new, however, is a process and it takes time. And so we would like to ask you to be patient with us. We are not worse or better than you. We are just different. But we are equal human beings.

We could tell you more about your bad social habits just as you can tell us more about ours, so we can learn from each other. However, behind the unwanted forms of behaviour there is a real and rich culture that is worth discovering. All peoples have their own very interesting history and culture which is worth experiencing and understanding. Unfortunately, because we often focus only on the negatives, we sometimes don't see the good parts of our respective cultures.

Your 'true' culture needs to be unveiled to us as much as our 'true' culture to you. Different communities have settled in Govanhill in the past and they all brought some negative issues, but more importantly, they culturally enriched Govanhill and we are proud to be one of the latest communities that can do the same.

## Pot Holes!!!

**We are pleased to report that since our last report and after over three years of neglect that the top of Victoria Road has received a swathe of tar. The big crater on Victoria Rd., just before the lights at Calder Street has finally been filled. However Langside Road in front of Govanhill Library is rutted and has pot holes. When traffic contacts the sleeping policeman on Langside Road immediately after crossing Calder Street leading to Alison Street it really is a velocity-reducing**



feature with a vengeance. Any traffic not familiar with this speed bump and going more than ½ an mph is in danger of incurring a bill for new suspension. It was bad before but since Jack Frost got at it .... ..!

**ROADS AND LIGHTING**

**FAULTS REPORT THEM  
Tel: 0141 287 2000**

In an emergency;- i.e hazards on roads, lanes or footpaths which are potentially a danger to the public eg. Pot Holes, oil spillage, subsidence, missing covers -

Phone direct on **0800 373635**.

## End the Funding Freeze!

**Tackling social problems, raising self esteem and combating prejudice requires resources.**

**Govanhill Youth Project (GYP)** works with young people from all faiths and backgrounds between the ages of 11-18. Diversity and Dialogue is implicit in the work of the project. Since 1993 GYP has continued in the to be a success story challenging barriers with creative education for education, development, and fun for harmony.

They have an exciting programme. On Monday nights the project provides a Roma Music programme. This has proven useful for GYP to engage with and build relationships with young people from Eastern Europe who have recently moved into Govanhill. This is part of an ongoing programme whereby music tastes are used as a means for young people from different backgrounds to build relationships with each other in a collaborative approach to aide inter-cultural understanding through the medium of music.

**On Tuesday nights** there is an arts themed drop-in involving young people from many backgrounds which touches upon themes involving the history of migration into Govanhill. Govanhill historically is an area that has welcomed migrants which continues to this day. This project will

be looking at shared histories of migration of residents encompassing countries such as Ireland, Pakistan, India, towards the more recent additions to our community from countries such as Slovakia.

**On Wednesday,** Continuing with this theme of using arts to facilitate issue based group work, there is a girl's creative dance group. Through the approaches that GYP employs to gauge the needs of young people it was clear that there was a need for a space specifically for girls to explore issues affecting themselves and the wider community within a format that reflects their interests. This group encourages team building between young people from diverse backgrounds and uses dance derived from differing styles across the world to highlight diversity as a positive force that adds to the richness of our lives. This group has completed three performances and will be performing again in the near future.

**On Thursday nights** there is a 'street football' group in partnership with Partick Thistle providing space for young people to mix with each other encouraging teambuilding between young people from diverse backgrounds. Sport has also proven a beneficial engagement approach for GYP to meet its objectives. Sport groups have evolved to meet the needs of young people with a

variety of differing sports offered. **GYP does street work four nights a week** in order to learn directly from young people what they require. GYP believes that young people know best what they need. As well as encouraging young people to join its local management committee, a volunteers group has been set up to facilitate greater involvement of young people in all aspects of the project. GYP also runs weekly sessions at Holyrood Secondary School with girls, tackling issues such as raising self esteem, confidence, drugs, alcohol, and smoking.

**GYP constantly has to challenge the unjustified demonisation of young people which emanates from the media.** Their work acts as an antidote to this misinformation but with the scant resources they receive this will prove an uphill battle. Funding for GYP and similar bodies has fallen in real terms in past years. This problem will be accentuated as cuts in public services start to bite. The greatest need is for a dedicated youth centre to adequately provide for young people. We all should be agitating towards this end.

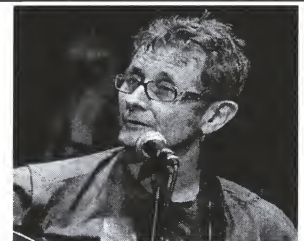
**Govanhill Youth Project is at 172 Butterbiggins Road, Govanhill, Glasgow , G42 7AL. They can be contacted on telephone: (0141) 423 8793**

## Obituary

**Remembering Alistair Hulett Campaigner, Musician and Motivator.**

There were hundreds at the funeral for Alistair Hulett . Govanhill Save Our Pool campaigners miss the Alistair known to us - a troubadour to

inspire and energise us during that song filled summer when we sang outside the Govanhill Baths regularly after tea time. Many times 'Big Iain' played tracks, on Sunny Govan Radio, from the Campaign CD album Alistair created. He lives on in the hearts of all the many people and the places he touched.



*We will swim again.*

## LETTERS

I live in a top tenement with my two little boys and have owned my flat on Cathcart Road for three years now. I am shocked at the neglect of the area by residents, tenants and councils. I am fortunate to have a shared back garden over-looking a grassy hill with three other blocks around it. It could be truly lovely, yet all I see is my neighbors dumping bin bags, large items and other things in their back gardens. I have never seen anyone mowing their lawn and the standard of grass out there proves it. I try so hard to keep my garden nice for my children and the other people who live here and I am sad that no one else bothers.

I would love to find out who lives in the streets in the quad overlooking this grassy knoll and how many of them would like to make this area cleaner and more pleasant. Perhaps we could all mow the area, avoid tipping on the square walkway and share some planting or gardening duties?



Cathcart Road itself is a disgrace. The dog faeces, litter and fly-tipping is awful and some of the worst I have seen in Scotland. If there are dog owners reading this, can I beg them to please adhere to the law and re-consider leaving faeces on the street? I have a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old and there is something completely horrific about people making the walk to school and nursery a mine-field.

The overarching responsibility lies with us as community members but the overarching authority lies with the main factor, Hacking & Patterson Building managers. I would urge you all to rethink where your fees

go and how they are spent.

Let us all write them a letter and demand a better service; there is strength in numbers. Let's all make an effort to clean our gardens up, only put refuse in the street on a Tuesday evening and re-consider what we put in our bin stores. Each close will have one or two lovely people who make the effort to keep the value of the flats high; maybe all tenants and owners making the effort would improve lives for everyone and for a longer term? By the way, I know I sound like an old fogey but I am only 29! Best wishes and good luck, Lucy Woodhouse Cathcart Road

### First Bus – Fares Rise Again...

**Travelling around Glasgow by bus is getting more expensive and complicated.**

First Bus has a monopoly on the routes around the city and increases its prices at will. To travel from Govanhill to the city centre will cost £1.35. If returning by bus your minimum spend will be £2.70 for your trip. If you need to change buses, you'll either need to buy another single ticket, or get a two trip ticket -

£3.45, or an all day ticket (£3.75). In all probability bus fares are about to rise again in Glasgow – how in a time of recession can this be the case? Edinburgh has a publicly owned bus company - Lothian Buses, their single fares are a standard £1.20 and an all day ticket is £3.00.

Bus services were deregulated in 1986, on the usual premise of, greater competition means

better and cheaper services for customers. Initially this seemed to work as bus carriers battled it out to attract customers with cheap fares. However this didn't last and bus carriers were either bought over or came to agreement on routes. First Bus now runs the majority of routes in Scotland; hence it can set its prices as it wants – this seems particularly true in Glasgow where it has no real competition.

*...continued on page 4*



<http://southsidecrane.wordpress.com>

This cartoon was seen as particularly significant in an Irish-catholic context because of the deep-seated hatred for absentee landlords amongst the immigrant Irish in Britain.

Is there a repeat of this anti-social behaviour on the part of the current ruling elites in Edinburgh and Glasgow, leaving a polyglot of peoples to the mindless privatisation of the new liberal housing market; which is used as an investment opportunity for slum landlords, to get rich from their neglect of the tenants they keep down and the resident flat owners who they would make poor by their irresponsible actions?

**Buy to let is clearly bad for most tenants. It is not equity that is needed but housing justice that we need.**